

# Measuring the wind

**The simplest thing you can measure is the wind direction. But even though it is simple, you can get much useful information about the weather.**

You will need a wind vane of some kind. This may be a proper wind vane, or it might be a flag and a compass.

You will make measurements every day at the same time for a month. You will always stand in open ground well away from buildings and trees. If possible, stand in the same place each day (but this may not be possible at weekends). Spread the measuring load among the class.

On each day find the direction of the wind. The direction is **OPPOSITE** the direction the flag is fluttering in. That is you are measuring the direction the wind is coming from, not the direction it is going to. You record the wind as a direction, choosing one of these: north, northwest, west, southwest, south, southeast, east, and northeast. You can also choose calm.

At the end of the month put your measurements into a table like this, totalling each category. So you might have seven days when the wind came from the north west. Put 7 under northwest.

You are now going to put those measurements onto a special chart called a wind rose. If there were 7 days from the northwest, draw a column 7 units long and colour it in. Do the same for the other directions.

The bar pointing furthest shows the most common, or prevailing wind. This is often the northwest. Is that what you have found?

Name:..... Form:.....

See **pages 44 and 45** of *Weather around the world*

north	northwest	west	southwest	south	southeast	east	northeast

